IN THE CLAIMS:

35. (Currently amended) A method for treating atrophic vaginitis in a patient in need of such treatment, said method comprising administering vaginally to said patient an amount of about 10 μg estradiol, wherein administration of said amount occurs once or twice per week and wherein said estradiol is administered in tablet form.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the patient is a menopausal or post-menopausal woman.

37-39. Cancelled

40. (Currently amended) A method for treating atrophic vaginitis in a patient in need of such treatment ~~according to claim 35~~, said method comprising administering vaginally to said patient an amount of ~~wherein~~ about 5 μg estradiol, wherein administration of said amount occurs ~~is administered~~ twice weekly and wherein said estradiol is administered in tablet form.

41-42. Cancelled

43. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein no progestogen is administered.

44. Cancelled

45. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein said at least once-weekly administration occurs over a period of time of more than 2 weeks.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 45, wherein said period of time is more than 1 month.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 46, wherein said period of time is more than 3 months.

48. Cancelled

49. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~48~~ 35, wherein each tablet comprises, in addition to estradiol or a therapeutically equivalent amount of a salt ~~or derivative~~ thereof, about 53.7 mg hypromellose, about 17.9 mg lactose monohydrate, about 8 mg maize starch, about 0.4 mg magnesium stearate.

50. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~48~~ 35, wherein each tablet is coated with a film consisting of about 0.5 mg hypromellose and about 0.06 mg macrogel 6000 (polyethylene glycol 6000 NF).

51. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~48~~ 35, wherein there is undetectable systemic absorption of said estradiol following said administration.

52. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein said treatment results in a vaginal pH value below bout 5.5.

53. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein said treatment results in one or more of: Relief of vaginal symptoms, improved urogenital atrophy, decreased vaginal pH, and improved cytologic maturation of the vaginal and/or urethral mucosa.